

one (&) another

Taree Mackenzie
Tjanpi Desert Weavers
Carolyn Kenta
Dorcas Tinnimai Bennett
Dorothy Paddy
Helen Curtis
Janie Kulyuru
Judy Martin
Julie Anderson
Kathy Dodd
Lena Young
Mandy Adamson
Margaret Peters
Maureen DouglasNellie Coulthard
Ngilan (Margaret) Dodd
Nyurpaya Kaika-Burton
Puna Yanima
Rebecca Lawson
Rochelle Ferguson
Sheena Dodd
Tanya Burton
Trudy Nyurpaya Holland Smythe
Yayimpi Claudia Lewis

Curator: Jessica Clark

Together

one (&) another presents two distinct bodies of work: a collection of brightly coloured coiled baskets by Tjanpi Desert Weavers and a series of video works by Taree Mackenzie that visually capture the interplay of colour and light. Together the works of art weave the organic and the digital, their alternating colours, material, and form drawing focus both inward and outward – to the seen and unseen dynamisms at play within objects, and in the world around us. The visual and material exchange that unfolds between the baskets and the video works, now in proximity to one another, triggers an expanded optical pattern that animates a dialogue about the interrelation between people and place, and the energy infused within objects through the process of making.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers is a social enterprise of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (NPYWC). The NPYWC works with over 400 women from twenty-six remote communities in the Central and Western Desert region – forty-six intricate hand-woven fibre baskets by various artists are included in the exhibition. Tjanpi weavers employ diverse approaches to their weaving practices that are inspired by seasonal change, intergenerational exchange, and contemporary life. The women go back to their homelands to gather the grasses for their fibre works, taking their children and grandchildren with them to share in the process, to pass on tradition, share stories, and connect with their Tjukurpa (ancestral knowledges). It's a cyclic and intergenerational way of making that enacts a philosophy of obligation and reciprocity between people and place – as the Tjanpi motto reads: "Wirura pukultu tjanpiku uralpai (In harmony we go forth to harvest the grasses)."¹

The colourful mixed-fibre baskets by Tjanpi reflect the rhythms of daily living and nature, of continuity, repetition, and their interrelationships. The collected grasses from Country are bundled, wrapped, and stitched with coloured raffia and wool – woven together

¹ Tjanpi motto, in "Tjanpi – Means Grass," in *Tjanpi Desert Weavers*, ed. Penny Watson (South Yarra, Vic: Macmillan Art Publishing, 2012), 89.

around each basket's knotted centre that has been constructed from the matting together of grass and/or emu feathers. This centre knot is inspired by a manguri, a traditional head ring made by women for tens of thousands of years and used every day to carry piti (carved wooden bowls) or other objects. The manguri embodies a "circular motion" and functions as a cushion or support mechanism.² The baskets by Tjanpi hold a representation of a manguri within their centre, the weavers having innovated upon this ancient and cultural practice by expanding its form around and outward, and infusing each woven fibre with the daily rituals of contemporary life. Through material, process, and form, the baskets collectively invoke a cyclic rhythm that is equally present in the passing on of stories from old to young, the seasonal changes within the landscape, and the repeated motions within the everyday.³

Taree Mackenzie is a multimedia artist who is particularly interested in the science of perception and the inner workings of objects in space. Her creative works develop out of her extensive studio experimentation with a range of everyday mass-produced materials,⁴ and the application of scientific knowledge through their construction. The highly affective and investigative assemblages and video works that result from Mackenzie's process explore and unpack the spectrum of colour in light and its translatable possibilities. Through her understanding and application of the rational principles of colour theory – relying on the primary (red, green, blue – RGB) and secondary (cyan, magenta, yellow – CMY) additive theory of colour⁵ – Mackenzie calculates and constructs varied environments that translate or break down what is actually happening between colour, light, and the human eye. Her constructed environments initiate revelatory moments and experiences that make visible the dynamics of the colour spectrum and its effect on perception.

Ping Pong Balls on Cyan, Magenta, and Yellow Mirrors (2016) consists of a series of three video works that capture the moment three ping pong balls are dropped onto three

² Manyitjanu Lennon, "No Strangers to Fibre," in *Tjanpi Desert Weavers*, 129.

³ Jo Foster, "Lovely One-Pa Inspiration," in *Tjanpi Desert Weavers*, 170.

⁴ Taree Mackenzie, in conversation with the author, September 24, 2020.

⁵ Paris Lettau and Amelia Winata, "Taree Mackenzie's Cartesian Utopia," *Art Monthly Australasia* 317 (Winter 2019): 48–53, <https://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=402105224568542;res=IELLCC>.

different coloured mirrors within a blacked-out environment. At the base of each individual video lies a coloured mirror – as the title indicates, one cyan, one magenta, and another that is yellow. The ping pong balls that feature in each of the three videos are also different colours – cyan, magenta, yellow, and white – and are illuminated by a number of strategically placed light sources located outside the frame. As the ping pong balls fall and connect with their respective mirrored surfaces, they undergo a reflective colour change – bouncing up and down and rolling around in circles before they each settle and come to a stop. The white ping pong ball in the group works to help signify the colour of the mirror, while the other two coloured balls in each frame reflect their secondary counterpart – green, purple, or orange. Mackenzie's premeditated angles and arrangement of materials within each video set-up reveal to the eye the multidimensional possibilities at the intersection of colour and light. The result of this material exchange that unfolds between the ping pong balls, lights, and mirrors offers up a world of complete transparency – prompting a deeper understanding of the energies at play in the day-to-day and the effect of colour on both perception and experience in response to changing environments.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers and Taree Mackenzie are true innovators in their respective mediums – collecting, exposing, and concealing their materials through an environmentally perceptive process that creatively engages the alchemy of colour and light. Presented together in *one (&) another*, the baskets and video works initiate an intergenerational and multidimensional visual exchange that draws forth new-found material and conceptual connections and associations. Though each body of work is unique in material and form, they are both deeply connected investigations into the relationship between colour, perception, and human experience. The material and aesthetic juxtaposition that results from the works' presentation – the video works each embedded within one of three linear sequences of baskets – animates a greater awareness of the vibrational energies infused within objects through the process of making. Collectively the works of art captivate and challenge our perceptive nature, their shared opticality and material performativity casting a universal net that translates the

interrelationship between colour and light, art and life, people and place, one and another.

List of works:

Entry (left)

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Ngilan (Margaret) Dodd, Mimili (b. 1936)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, 46cm x H25cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Entry (right)

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Helen Curtis, Kanpi (b. 1970)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D16cm x H5cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Janie Kulyuru, Kanpi (b. unknown)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D40cm x H16cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers

Gallery 1, Left Wall (left to right)

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Maureen Douglas, Amata (b. 1970)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D19cm x H6cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Yayimpi Claudia Lewis, Papulankutja/Blackstone (b. 1979)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D17cm x H7cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Julie Anderson, Apatula/Finke (b. 1956)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D20cm x H7cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Carolyn Kenta, Pukatja (b. 1971)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D19cm x H5cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Trudy Nyurpaya Holland Smythe, Warakurna (b. 1963)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, wipya (emu feathers), D26cm x H7cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Taree Mackenzie, Naarm/Melbourne (b. 1980)

Ping pong balls on cyan mirror, 2016, video, looped. Courtesy the artist.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Julie Anderson, Apatula/Finke (b. 1956)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D20cm x H6cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Maureen Douglas, Amata (b. 1970)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D16cm x H6cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Tanya Burton, Amata (b. 1997)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D22cm x H7cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Mandy Adamson, Amata (b. 1950)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D35cm x H10cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Kathy Dodd, Mimili (b. 1964)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D16cm x H6cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Dorothy Paddy, Kaltukatjara/Docker River (b. unknown)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D21cm x H9cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Rochelle Ferguson, Irruntyju/Wingellina (b. 1980)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass) acrylic wool, raffia, D22cm x H8cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Nyurpaya Kaika-Burton, Amata (b. 1940)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D16cm x H9cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Julie Anderson, Apatula/Finke (b. 1956)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D30cm x H11cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Maureen Douglas, Amata (b. 1970)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D13cm x H7cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Gallery 1, Right Wall (right to left):

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Nyurpaya Kaika-Burton, Amata (b. 1940)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D14cm x H9cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Kathy Dodd, Mimili (b. 1964)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D24cm x H10cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Maureen Douglas, Amata (b. 1970)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D21cm x H8cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Nyurpaya Kaika-Burton, Amata (b. 1940)
Basket, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, 2020, D16cm x H10cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Nellie Coulthard, Iwantja (b. 1950)
Basket, 2020, Raffia, D18cm x H6cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Margaret Peters, Amata (b. 1975)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D21cm x H6cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Rebecca Lawson, Amata (b. 1970)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D22cm x H5cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Kathy Dodd, Mimili (b. 1964)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D20cm x H7cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Taree Mackenzie, Naarm/Melbourne (b. 1980)
Ping pong balls on magenta mirror, 2016, video, looped. Courtesy the artist.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Maureen Douglas, Amata (b. 1970)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D15cm x H7cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Trudy Nyurpaya Holland Smythe, Warakurna (b. 1963)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, wipya (emu feathers), D30cm x H7cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Gallery 2, Back Wall (left to right)

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Margaret Peters, Amata (b. 1975)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D17cm x H7cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Judy Martin, Mimili (b. 1963)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D23cm x H12cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Julie Anderson, Apatula/Finke (b. 1956)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D32cm x H12cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Dorcas Tinnimai Bennett, Warakurna (b. 1956)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D34cm x H8cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Julie Anderson, Apatula/Finke (b. 1956)

Tjanpi Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D16cm x H7cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Taree Mackenzie, Naarm/Melbourne (b. 1980)

Ping pong balls on yellow mirror, 2016, video, looped. Courtesy the artist.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Sheena Dodd, Mimili (b. 1966)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), D25cm x H5cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Maureen Douglas

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D14cm x H6cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Gallery 2, Left Wall (left to right)

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Lena Young, (Amata, b. 1970)

Basket, 2020, raffia, D20cm x H7cm. Courtesy the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Nellie Coulthard, Iwantja (b. 1950)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D33cm x H7cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Julie Anderson, Apatula/Finke (b. 1956)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D25cm x H14cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Nellie Coulthard, Iwantja (b. 1950)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D42cm x H10cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Trudy Nyurpaya Holland Smythe, Warakurna (b. 1963)

Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, wipya (emu feathers), D24cm x H7cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Rochelle Ferguson, Irruntyju/Wingellina (b. 1980)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass) acrylic wool, raffia, D32cm x H9cm. Courtesy of the artist
and Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Tjanpi Desert Weaver Puna Yanima, Mimili (b. 1970)
Basket, 2020, Tjanpi (grass), raffia, D37cm x H9cm. Courtesy of the artist and Tjanpi
Desert Weavers.